

GENERAL RESTRICTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR CAVING ACTIVITIES,

A. 1) An approved Permit is required to enter caves in Management Classes 2 and 3a. A permit is not needed to visit caves in Management Class 3b. An approved permit, documenting specific trips, **and** an approved research agreement is required to enter caves in Management Classes 4 and 5. The permit requirement for class 4 and 5 caves may be waived under specific agreement with the Park Research Office and concurrence with the Cave Specialist. In all instances only the specifically listed cave on the Permit or agreement may be entered. 2) Permits will be issued by the Cave Specialist or the Chief Ranger's Office. Research agreements will be issued through the Park Superintendent's Office. 3) No more than one permit every two weeks (with weeks defined as Monday through Sunday) will be issued for caves in Management Class 2 and 3a. 4) Permitted caving parties must contain at least three persons, but no more than six persons. 5) Other specific restrictions may apply to certain caves.

B. 1) No speleothem, cave dwelling animal, plant or fungus, or other natural, historical, paleontological or archeological artifact may be handled, damaged or removed from any cave.

C. 1) No solid human waste may be deposited in a cave. It is recommended that solid waste be transported in plastic bags, which can be emptied into a toilet upon reaching the surface. 2) Low energy caves (those with little water or air flow and mostly fossil passages), particularly those with heavy use by cavers, are not suitable for the deposit of liquid waste. No liquid waste may be deposited in any cave in the drainage of the South Fork of the Kaweah River, (including Lost Soldier's) in any cave less than 1000 feet in length, and in Crystal Sequoia and Hurricane Crawl Caves. Such waste may be carried in plastic bottles, which can be emptied into a park toilet while the container itself is disposed of in a park garbage can or reused.

D. 1) All equipment, supplies, trash, clothing and other materials taken into a cave will be removed by the cavers at the end of their trip. 2) Of particular importance, is the removal of all spent carbide and spent batteries due to the toxic nature of these items. 3) Cavers are expected to be diligent in removing items which are often left behind such as fruit seeds, candle wax, small candy wrappers, crumbs from food, and wire insulation if an electrical lighting system is repaired, etc.

E. 1) It is the responsibility of cavers not to disturb cave-dwelling animals. Near the entrances of low and middle elevation caves, spiders, millipedes, ensantina salamanders and other creatures will be found. It is easy to step on, lay a hand or pack on, or brush against these animals, killing them or severely injuring them. These animals can also be inadvertently harmed by the "turning over" or movement of rocks leaf litter or other organic matter. **Please be very careful to avoid this.** 2) In a few park caves, notably Clough, Hurricane, and Crystal, animals are found throughout the cave, requiring cavers to be careful at all times. 3) Some caves are also a home for bats. When a colony is encountered **or** bats are flying, chirping, **or** hanging but awake and moving, cavers should immediately leave the area. Cavers may move past solitary bats, which are sleeping or resting on a wall or ceiling. However, while moving near bats all cavers should be quiet, move quickly and avoid shining their lights on the animal. Lights with red filters have been shown to disturb bats less and can be used by cavers in these situations.

F. 1) Cavers should consider their clothing when visiting park caves. Sweaters and other lint-producing articles should not be worn as an outer layer. In tight passages, such clothing will often leave behind small hairs and lint that are not natural to the cave environment. 2) A few caves have "boots-off" areas where delicate formations are crossed. Wool socks can cause the same problems in these areas and should not be worn as an outer layer when walking on flowstone or rimstone.

G. Due to persistent problems, carbide, and carbide lamps and all tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars, snuff, and chewing tobacco may not be used in Park caves.

H. There is no camping allowed in Park caves

I. Restrictions on cave diving, cave registers, digging in caves, leaving or caching items in caves, and other information may be found in the Cave Management Plan, Special Regulations for Caving Activities. Other sections of the Cave Management Plan, which may interest some cavers include the section on New Cave or Passage Discoveries, Cave Research, and Cave Classifications.

J. Cavers wishing to contact the Park may call (5599) 565-3717 and to talk to the Cave Specialist.